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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,372	07/01/2003	Christof Keller	40424-189157	8173
26694	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
VENABLE LLP P.O. BOX 34385 WASHINGTON, DC 20045-9998			HESS, DOUGLAS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/609,372

Applicant(s)

KELLER, CHRISTOF

Examiner

Douglas A. Hess

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7,9-19 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 8 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> .           |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: cover sheet of Schinzel Patent USP 6,264,419.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schinzel USP 6,264,419.

See the attached marked up cover sheet of Schinzel depicting the claimed features.

RE claims 3 and 15, Schinzel is capable of having an automatic palletizer under his gripper. The applicant includes his intermediate deposit (automatic palletizer) as part of a functional recitation in claim 1, therefore, the palletizer of claims 3 and 15 is not a positive recitation as far as the claim meaning is concerned.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 13, 14, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tubke USP 5,087,169.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 8 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

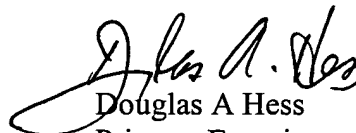
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas A. Hess whose telephone number is 571-272-6915. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs 5:30 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Douglas A Hess  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3651  
3/1/06

DAH  
March 1, 2006



US006264419B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Schinzel**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,264,419 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 24, 2001**

(54) **ROBOT ARM**

(75) **Inventor:** Fred Schinzel, Männedorf (CH)

(73) **Assignee:** Tecan Schweiz AG, Männedorf (CH)

(\*) **Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) **Appl. No.:** 09/415,554

(22) **Filed:** Oct. 8, 1999

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Oct. 15, 1998 (EP) ..... 98119468

(51) **Int. Cl.:** B25J 5/04

(52) **U.S. Cl.:** 414/751.1; 294/119.1;  
901/16; 901/21; 901/39

(58) **Field of Search:** 414/729; 749.1,  
414/751.1; 901/16, 21, 30, 39; 294/119.1,  
67.33

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,076,673 \* 2/1963 Kaplan et al. .... 294/67.33  
4,005,782 \* 2/1977 Crockett ..... 901/16

4,591,198 \* 5/1986 Monforte ..... 294/119.1

\* cited by examiner

**Primary Examiner**—Donald W. Underwood

(74) **Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Notaro & Michalos P.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A gripper housing (16) of a gripper (14) is suspended from two rotatable sliding bars the ends of which are connected to sleeves (50, 51). One of these is provided with a turning wheel (47) meshing with a turning pinion (48) nonrotatably connected with a tong housing (17) rotatably supported on the gripper housing (16). The other is provided with a gripper wheel (33) meshing with a gripper pinion (34) which is connected with gear wheels (38a, 38b) in the tong housing (17) via a gripper bolt (37) passing coaxially through the turning pinion (48). The gear wheels (38a, 38b) mesh with gear racks (52b) on sliders (39a, 39b) which are displaceably supported in the tong housing (17) and have gripping fingers (40a, 40b). By rotation of the first sliding bar, the sliders (39a, 39b) with the gripping fingers (40a, 40b) can be displaced relative to each other via the gripper wheel (33), gripper pinion (34), gripper bolt (37), and gear wheels (38a, 38b), while by rotation of the second sliding bar the tong housing (17) can be rotated via the turning wheel (47) and the turning pinion (48).

14 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

